

Connective Contour™ – increased soft tissue contact zone and volume

The Astra Tech design feature Connective Contour™ arise when the abutment is connected to the implant. The unique contour can be described as a waist profile starting at the implant bevel, continuing coronally on the abutment surface. It allows for an increased soft tissue volume and contact zone (compared to a straight design) in this area. Located within the Connective Contour is the implant-abutment junction. The tight and stable conical connection, Conical Seal Design™^{1,2}, minimizes micro-movements and micro-leakage³⁻⁵ resulting in no adverse reactions in the surrounding tissues. This design feature has been part of the Astra Tech Implant System™ for over 20 years.

The peri-implant tissue integrates with the Connective Contour^{6,7} and a high mechanical stability is obtained within the soft tissue, resulting in the ability to withstand external forces and movements. Esthetics is obtained due to the reduced translucency of the formed buccal tissue. Another advantage of the Connective Contour feature is the ability of the formed peri-implant tissue to seal off and support the marginal bone via sufficient vascularization and nutrition⁷.

The suggested length of the peri-implant soft tissue (i.e. the biological width) is about 3 mm, including the junctional epithelium requiring up to 2 mm^{6,8-11}. The design of the Connective Contour “enlarges” the area for the complete connective tissue integration, a prerequisite for healthy marginal bone. Hence, by a careful selection of abutments excellent esthetics can be achieved and maintained, including a gain in soft tissue dimensions and papilla height^{12,13}. Different surgical techniques and loading protocols¹¹⁻¹³ do not seem to affect the function of the Connective Contour. Predictable and reliable clinical outcomes are documented for the Astra Tech Implant System after a short-term follow-up^{3,4,11-29} and as well as after a long-term follow-up^{21,30-47}.

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